

The Home Missionary, vol. 5

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Ellet Joseph Waggoner

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# 1893

## April 1893

“An Interesting Letter from London” *The Home Missionary*, 5.

E. J. Waggoner

[The HOME MISSIONARY is designed to be, in a special sense, a worker's organ, furnishing suggestive studies on the various lines of missionary work, and giving opportunity for the communication of the best plans and methods, or of the results accomplished which will be an inspiration to others. To this end, we are glad to receive from various parts of the field, articles, short and to the point, or reports of missionary work done, and of blessings in the doing of it. The power of God is attending the efforts of faith, and now is the time for laborers in every department of the one work to fulfill *Isaiah 41:6, 7*: “They helped everyone his neighbor; and everyone said to his brother, Be of good courage. So the carpenter encouraged the goldsmith, and he that smootheth with a hammer him that smote the anvil.” Some portions of a personal letter just received from London, England, will be of interest as showing that the spirit of working for the Master as never before is taking possession of believers in other lands, and we therefore take the liberty of extracting from it:-]*HOMI April 1893, page 45.1*

We have had quite a revival here in London during this last month. The Spirit of the Lord has been manifested here by waking us up out of the lukewarm state into which we seem to have unconsciously sunk, and impress upon us the shortness of time and the soon return of our Lord. One of the brethren remarked to me the other day, “If we are not careful, the work will close up and we shall find we have had no part in it.” I thought to myself, How true this is. How easy it is to settle down into a comfortable position, rejoicing in the truth, and close our ears to the cries of those around us, who know not God but are seeking after him.*HOMI April 1893, page 45.2*

As a result of the awakening, several have started out canvassing

for *Present Truth* in the evenings or what other spare time they have. The Lord has blessed wonderfully in this matter. Several have only been able to devote a few hours in the evenings to the work, and as the weather has been so bad lately, we have only been able to get out one or two evenings, but the Lord has blessed those who have gone out, and over sixty subscribers have been secured by about two evenings' work by six of our brethren and sisters. One of the number, however, was able to devote the greater part of one day to the work. We consider this as but an earnest of what the Lord is willing and waiting to do, if we will but yield ourselves completely into his hands, and let him do the work through us.*HOMI April 1893, page 45.3*

Last night the missionary meeting was turned into a praise meeting for what the Lord has done and for the assurance of what the Lord is going to do. All were unanimous in giving him the praise. We found much assurance from *Psalms 90:16, 17*: "Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children. And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish about it." When we realize that it is the Lord's work that we are engaged in, we can ask in confidence that it shall be established. We may pass away and be forgotten, but the Lord will not, and the results will be seen in eternity, if not before.*HOMI April 1893, page 46.1*

I have been much struck lately, in reading of how the Lord wrought for his people in times past, and noticing how it is repeated over and over again; that he did it to "make himself an everlasting name." *Isaiah 63:12, 14*. Again in *Psalms 106:8*: "Nevertheless he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make his mighty power to be known." Doubtless the reason the Lord has not been able to do more through us, is that we would have been uplifted and would have taken a praise to ourselves, and when such a thing as that comes to pass, there is an end to our usefulness. Our God is a jealous God. He will not give his merited praise to another. He inhabits the praises of Israel, and we have no right to rob him of his dwelling-place.*HOMI April 1893, page 46.2*

In our study of Galatians, we have seen how the apostle Paul grasped this truth. In *Galatians 1:16*, we find Christ revealed in him,

and the result was (*verse 24*), “And they glorified God in me.” So the Lord was making his mighty power to be known through the apostle to such an extent that man lost sight of him and saw only the Lord manifested through him. It is said that the characteristics of Whitefield’s preaching were such that when the people came away from hearing him, they did not speak of the man nor his preaching, but their minds were so full of Christ who had been uplifted before them as his and their master, that He was the theme of their conversation. If we were all, with the apostle Paul, crucified with Christ, so that Christ might live his life in each one of his followers, what a power we should be in the world. There would be no room then for self to have any place in our hearts, and the Lord could then do great things through us.*HOMI April 1893, page 46.3*

Of course you have heard about our meetings at the close of last year. We experienced much of the blessing of the Lord there, and the workers have gone back to the work with renewed courage and confidence in the Lord. I have heard from one or two who have engaged in the work, that they much prefer to canvass for “Patriarchs and Prophets” (although they find it a harder book to canvass for than “Bible Readings”) Because Christ is so uplifted in it.*HOMI April 1893, page 46.4*

Our people everywhere are waking up to the fact that it is the living Saviour that we must present before the people, and not a mere theory of the truth; and is there not assurance and a message that has come to us, that this is the commencement of the loud cry of the third angel’s message? One feels to lose all interest in everything else, as long as they can have the assurance that they are having a part in this work, even though it be in a very small way; and one almost longs for the time when the people of God shall be banded together in one, so that the Lord can work a mighty works through his people, even though it may be persecution and trials that shall bring about the state of things.*HOMI April 1893, page 46.5*

We have been told that the power of the Spirit of God awaits our demand and reception, but may be the Lord will have to put some of us through the furnace to purge away the dross, that we may come out as refined silver; but whatever may happen, we have the

assurance that the furnace will not be any hotter than is absolutely necessary, and we can be joyful in the process.*HOMI April 1893, page 46.6*

We feel our need of power here in London especially, and the more we realize it, the more we are led to cry out to Him who has “all power” with the assurance that he will “supply all our need according to his riches and glory, by Christ Jesus.” And when we stop and try to take that promise in, we realize there is no limit to what he can do, but it is our unbelief that limits his power and prevents him working through us.*HOMI April 1893, page 46.7*

We have heard of the glorious time you are having at Battle Creek, and we feel glad to be privileged to share this with you in a measure, by the reading of the *Bulletins*. Professor Prescott’s talks on “The Promise of the Holy Spirit” are grand, are they not? And Elder Jones’ talks on the “Third Angel’s Message” must prove of great blessing to all our people. Surely we have great cause to praise God for the wonderful flood of light that he is pouring in upon us from the pages of his sacred word, and we need to humble ourselves more than ever before, for with this increased light comes also increased responsibility. “To whom much is given, of him much will be required, and none of us liveth to himself.” We have therefore to “arise and shine” for the light has come, but we need to let the light shine through us in such a manner that men will glorify our “Father which is in heaven.”*HOMI April 1893, page 46.8*

## November 1893

“Personal Experience for this Time” The Home Missionary Extra 5.

E. J. Waggoner

### Readings for Sunday, December 31.

“Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the Lord’s hand double for all her sins. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain; and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodness thereof is as the flower of the field; The grass withereth, the flower fadeth; because the spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it; surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth; but the word of our God shall stand for ever. O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.” *Isaiah 40:1-10* (marginal reading of *verse 9*). *HOMI November 1893, page 39.1*

In this scripture we have the message which is to prepare for the coming of the Lord. That the coming referred to is the second coming in glory, to reward the saints, is evident from *verses 4, 5, and 10*. Please read them again, and compare them with *Matthew 16:27; Mark 13:26; and Revelation 22:12*. It is a message of good tidings, for it announces redemption. *HOMI November 1893, page 39.2*

The message in Isaiah is the same as that set forth in the fourteenth of Revelation. It is the gospel (good tidings); it prepares

the way for the coming of the Lord, and proclaims the nearness of that event; and it is to be given with a loud cry. See *Isaiah 40:9*. It also comforts by calling attention to God as creator; he saves by his creative power. In the fortieth of Isaiah, therefore, we have set forth the loud cry of the last message.*HOMI November 1893, page 39.3*

But this message is identical with that given by John the Baptist. Compare *Isaiah 40:1-5*, and *Luke 3:2-6*. John the Baptist was the Elias that was to come before the great and terrible day of the Lord. See *Malachi 4:5* and *Matthew 17:14*. But the work did not end with him. His message did not exhaust the prophecy. He simply began a message which will not end until the Lord appears in glory.*HOMI November 1893, page 39.4*

It needs no argument to convince any one that the Lord's work is not going to diminish in power as the end approaches. "He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth." *Isaiah 42:4*. Therefore the gospel of the kingdom must be announced in these last days with at least as much power as it was in the days of John the Baptist. We cannot set any limit to the power attending it, but we know that it will not be less than in the days of John.*HOMI November 1893, page 39.5*

How was it in those days? Read *Matthew 3:5*: "Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judea, and all the region round about Jordan." The whole country was stirred, and such was the power of the message, that for a little while all acknowledged that John was a prophet of God, and accepted his message as truth. Even so it will be in the closing of the message. The glory of the Lord is to be revealed not simply in the clouds of heaven, but in the form of his righteousness which he will put within and upon his people, "And all flesh shall see it together." The message of salvation is to "all the ends of the earth." *Isaiah 45:22*. "The Lord hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God." *Isaiah 52:10*. As the multitudes flocked to see John the Baptist, so they will yet gather to hear the message, when it is proclaimed with the same power.*HOMI November 1893, page 39.6*

And when will that be? It will be when those who have the message



to proclaim have the same experience that John the Baptist had. It will be when they have a personal experience of the power and glory of God working in them. This is the testimony of the word of God.*HOMI November 1893, page 39.7*

In the first place, who are they who have the message to proclaim? The answer is, "Let him that heareth say, Come." *Revelation 22:17*. "For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work." *Mark 13:34.HOMI November 1893, page 39.8*

The message is God's message, but he proclaims it through his servants. It is God that is going to work with a strong hand, but it is through his people that his power is to be manifested. The wisdom and power of God are to be made known in earth and heaven also, through the church. See *Ephesians 3:10.HOMI November 1893, page 39.9*

"The gospel is the power of God unto salvation, to every one that believeth." *Romans 1:16*. It has to do with men not as a race, or as a society, but as individuals. The power by which God works is according to the riches of his glory. See *Ephesians 3:16*. "Strengthened with all power, according to the might of his glory." *Colossians 1:11 (R.V.)*. It was by the glory of God that Christ was raised from the dead. *Romans 6:4; 1:3*. Therefore the power of the glory of God is the power of the resurrection; and this is what all the heirs of God must know. Read *Ephesians 1:18-20; Philipians 3:8-10.HOMI November 1893, page 39.10*

The apostle Paul writes: "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ; who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." *Philipians 3:20, 21*. The glory of God, which raised Christ from the dead, will at his coming raise from the dead all who are Christ's, and will change the living righteous. The bodies of all the saints are to exhibit the glory of God. See *Daniel 12:3; Matthew 13:43; Romans 8:18.HOMI November 1893, page 40.1*

But the power by which this is done is "according to the working by

which he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.” The power by which the bodies of the righteous are to be raised and changed, is the power by which they will have been made righteous. “We all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.” *2 Corinthians 3:18*. “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” *HOMI November 1893, page 40.2*

This is the power of salvation; but all who are saved, are saved by the same power; therefore the glory of God must be revealed to the whole world, in order that all may have the same opportunity of salvation. Now no one can describe to another the glory of God. No mind can comprehend it, and no words can be framed that would convey any idea of it. “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth his handiwork;” but it is not by words. “There is no speech nor language; without these their voice is heard.” If they depend upon articulate speech, they could not declare God’s glory that God has given them. We are also the workmanship of God, called out of darkness into his marvelous light, that we should show forth his excellencies. If we depend upon words alone, we shall make a failure. Our words will be powerless, if the glory of God is not revealed in our lives. *HOMI November 1893, page 40.3*

Remember that the last message-the message which proclaims the power and glory of Christ’s life as the deliverer from sin-is a message of comfort. But no one can comfort another unless he has been in the same need, and has received comfort. Bear in mind that it is not enough to know that we are needy sinners, like all the rest of mankind. That alone will not enable us to give a message of comfort. The man who is perishing can derive no comfort from a knowledge of the fact that somebody else is also perishing. Comfort can come only through the announcement that there is help at hand, and the confident assurance from our own experience that the help is sufficient to supply all the need, “Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.” *2*

This, then, is the personal experience necessary for this time. The measure of the power of the message in the world, is the measure of the power that works in the hearts of those who have the message to give. Therefore if the message is not going with the power that it ought, it is simply waiting on the professed people of God. God could do the work without man's help. In fact, he does do it without man's help; for we are not able to add anything to his power. But he could do it without man's agency. His spirit could move on the hearts of men, even as in the beginning it moved on the face of the waters, before there was a man. But he has determined to show to the universe what he can do through puny man, and thus be the more glorified by his own work.*HOMI November 1893, page 40.5*

The experience here set forth is not an impossible one to obtain. Christ is standing at the door and knocking for admittance. He will dwell in the heart of every one who will unquestioningly believe him. And when we by faith admit Christ into our hearts, he brings in the power of God, for he is the power of God, and the wisdom of God. "As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name; which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." *John 1:12, 13.HOMI November 1893, page 40.6*

Let every one, then, yield to the Lord, so that with confidence he may say, "I know him whom I have believed," and then when his people cry with one voice, "Behold your God," all flesh shall speedily see the glory and the salvation of God. E. J. WAGGONER.*HOMI November 1893, page 40.7*

